

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A ~~D~~ desiccant container, with increased tightness, made of thermoplastic polymer materials, for the packaging of products sensitive to ambient moisture, presented in processed or unprocessed forms comprising: ~~consisting of~~:

- a tubular casing (1), forming ~~the~~ a product packaging zone, closed at one of its ends by a base (2) and open at the other end (3),
- sealing means (4) of the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1),
- connection means (5) placed between the sealing means (4) and the tubular casing (1),
- packaging means (6) of a desiccant agent placed on ~~the~~ an inner face of the sealing means (6),
- a collar type outer peripheral stop (7), created in ~~the~~ a vicinity of the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1) wherein ~~on the sealing means (4) are~~ is supported in ~~the~~ a closed position thereof, and further wherein,

~~characterised in that:~~

a) the sealing means (4) of the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1) ~~consist of~~ comprises a cap-lid coaxial with the tubular casing (1) ~~consisting of~~ comprising an upper end wall and two concentric tubular peripheral walls ~~(9 and 10)~~ comprising, one inner wall (9) and one outer wall (10), and forming together a ~~deep~~ peripheral groove (11) having walls distanced from each other to cover, when said sealing means ~~are~~ is closed, ~~the~~ a peripheral wall (12) of ~~the~~ the said open end (3) of the tubular casing (1) up to ~~the~~ said outer peripheral stop (7), creating four successive surface to surface type tightness peripheral zones forming four successive tightness barriers between the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1) and the cap-lid (4), and

b) the connection means between the tubular casing (1) and the sealing means (4) ~~consist of~~ comprises a mechanical hinge (5), ~~preferentially removable~~, ensuring the precision of the closure.

2. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~ desiccant container according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein a first surface to surface type peripheral tightness zone is established between the outer ~~coaxial~~ wall (10) of the ~~deep~~ peripheral groove (11) and ~~the~~ an outer face of the wall of the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1).

3. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein a second surface to surface type peripheral tightness zone is created between the a peripheral base of the ~~deep peripheral~~ groove (11) and the a peripheral edge (30) of the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1).
4. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 3~~ characterised in that the wherein a base of the peripheral groove (11) has ~~the same~~ a cross-section that is the same as the a cross-section of the peripheral edge of the open end of the casing (1).
5. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 4 ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said cross-sections comprise ~~is of the~~ a sharp angle type.
6. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 4 ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said cross-sections comprise an ~~is of the~~ arc of a circle type.
7. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 6~~ characterised in that the wherein a peripheral edge of the open end (3) of the casing (1) is in the prolongation of said casing (1).
8. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 6~~ characterised in that the wherein a peripheral edge of the open end (3) of the casing (1) protrudes from said casing (1).
9. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 8~~ characterised in that wherein the distance between the inner (9) and outer (10) walls of the groove is at least equal to the thickness of the tubular casing (1).
10. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein a third surface to surface type peripheral tightness zone is established

between ~~the~~ an inner surface of the inner ~~coaxial~~ wall (9) of the ~~deep~~ peripheral groove (11) and ~~the~~ an inner surface of the open end (3) of the tubular casing (1).

11. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 10, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the contact height of the third surface to surface type peripheral tightness zone extends from ~~the~~ a lower end of the inner wall (9) to ~~the~~ a base of the groove (11).

12. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 11 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the height of ~~the~~ said inner peripheral wall (9) of the groove (11) is at least equal to ~~and preferentially greater than~~ the height of ~~the~~ said outer wall of said groove (11).

13. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1, to 12 ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein an inner surface of the inner peripheral wall (9) comprises an annular ~~type~~ peripheral protuberance (31).

14. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 13 ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said annular ~~type~~ peripheral protuberance (31) is engaged into a corresponding peripheral groove (32) placed on the inner wall of the open end (3) of the casing (1).

15. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim ~~[[1]] 4~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a the fourth surface to surface type peripheral tightness zone is established between ~~the~~ a plane lower edge of the outer wall (10) of the ~~deep~~ groove (11) and ~~the~~ a plate of the outer peripheral stop (7).

16. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 15, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the depth of the ~~deep~~ peripheral groove (11) is ~~between~~ from 45% ~~and to~~ 95% of the thickness of the cap-lid (4) measured on the outer peripheral wall (10) of said groove.

17. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 16~~, characterised in that wherein the outer peripheral wall (10) of the ~~deep~~ peripheral groove (11) is continuous.

18. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 17~~, characterised in that wherein the outer peripheral wall (10) of the ~~deep~~ peripheral groove (11) is rendered discontinuous by notches (20).

19. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 18~~, characterised in that wherein the cap-lid (4) is equipped with a gripping visor (17).

20. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 19~~, characterised in that ~~the~~ wherein an inner face of the outer wall (10) of the groove (11) and ~~the~~ an outer face of the outer wall of the tubular casing (1) are equipped with snap-on means.

21. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 20~~, characterised in that ~~the~~ wherein said connection means comprises a mechanical hinge (5) is formed by two parts, ~~one so-called~~ a male part incorporated in the tubular casing (1) and, ~~the other so-called~~ a female part incorporated in the cap-lid (4).

22. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 21, characterised in that wherein the ~~so-called~~ male part of the hinge (5) incorporated in the tubular casing (1) ~~consists of~~ comprises two bracket plates (13) connected ~~with~~ to each other by a rotation axis (15).

23. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 22, characterised in that wherein the rotation axis (15) is prolonged beyond both bracket plates (13) by protruding ends (19).

24. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 23, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the so-called female part of the hinge (5), incorporated in the cap-lid (4), ~~consists of comprises:~~

- two bracket plates (17) placed at a distance with respect to each other such that ~~they~~ said plates can encompass the bracket plates (13) of the so-called male part of the hinge (5),
- a second groove (16) intended to receive the rotation axis (15), delimited by inner (10) and outer (14) walls.

25. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 24, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the bracket plates (17) are equipped with orifices (18) to receive the protruding ends (19) of the rotation axis (15).

26. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 24, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the length of the second groove (16) intended to receive the rotation axis (15) is at most equal to the distance existing between the inner faces of the bracket plates (13).

27. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 26~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the packaging means (6) of a desiccant agent placed on the inner face of the cap-lid (4) is ~~preferentially of the tubular type~~.

28. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 27~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the tubular casing (1) and the cap-lid (4) are produced together with the same thermoplastic polymer composition.

29. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 27~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the tubular casing (1) and the cap-lid (4) are produced with different thermoplastic polymer compositions.

30. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 29~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the tubular casing (1) and the cap-lid (4) are produced using plastics technology methods using at least one thermoplastic polymer composition[[s]] selected

from the group consisting of polyethylenes (PE), polypropylenes (PP), ethylene/propylene copolymers and mixtures thereof, polyamides (PA), polystyrenes (PS), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS), styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN), polyvinyl chlorides (PVC), polycarbonates (PC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), and polyethylene terephthalates (PET); ~~used alone or in a mixture.~~

31. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to claim 30, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the thermoplastic composition~~[[s]]~~ ~~are~~ is associated with at least one elastomer of natural or synthetic origin, ~~the elastomer(s) used possibly being selected preferentially from the group consisting of elastomers such as natural rubbers, synthetic rubber, particularly mono-olefin rubbers, such as isobutylene/isoprene polymers, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), ethylene propylene (EPR), ethylene propylene diene (EPDM), ethylene ester acrylates (EMA-EEA), fluorinated polymers, diolefin rubbers, such as polybutadienes, styrene butadiene (SBR) copolymers, condensation product based rubbers such as polyester and polyurethane thermoplastic rubbers, silicones, styrene rubbers, styrene butadiene styrene (SBS) and styrene isoprene styrene (SIS).~~

32. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 31,~~ ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the desiccant agent is in powder form.

33. (currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~desiccant container according to ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 32,~~ ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the desiccant agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of silica gels, and molecular sieves.

34. (currently amended) ~~Use of the desiccant container according to claims 1 to 33 for the~~ A ~~method for packaging [[of]] a product[[s]] sensitive to ambient moisture comprising employing said product in a desiccant container according to claim 1.~~